

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11

NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01

/138 W

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R 061449 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4329

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AVZMBASSY PARIS 5055

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL SZTTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: EPPLER FORESEES NO TROUBLE FOR OFFSET AT  
HANNOVER

REF: BONN 3340

SUMMARY: GERMAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTER ERHARD  
EPPLER ( CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE A LEADING MEMBER OF  
THE SPD' S LEFT WING) TOLD A GERMAN TV AUDIENCE ON APRIL  
4 THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE DELEGATES TO THE SPD  
NATIONAL CONVENTION IN HANNOVER, APRIL 1#714, WOULD  
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OBJECT TO OFFSET PAYMENT TO THE U. S. EPPLER'S STATEMENTS LEND FURTHER WEILTT TO THE CONTENTION THAT CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT WILL HAVE HIS WAY AT HANNOVER, AT LEAST IN THE FOREIGN POLICY AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY A JOURNALIST ABOUT SEVERAL DRAFT MOTIONS ON ARMAMENTS REDUCTION WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO BE DISCUSSED AT HANNOVER, EPPLER SAID, " THERE HAS NEVER BEEN AN SPD CONVENTION WITHOUT SUCH MOTIONS: IN THIS RESPECT THE PARTY DIDN'T CHANGE A BIT. AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS WITH THESE MOTIONS. WE'VE TOLD OUR PARTY FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY THAT, IN THE LONG RUN, THIS POLICY OF DETENTE WILL ALSO HAVE THE RESULT THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ( RUSTING, I HOPE\*) IRON CURTAIN TO DIMINISH THE MILITARY WEIGHTS AND, THUS, TO REDUCE ALSO THE ARMS BURDENS BUT THERE IS THIS IMPATIENCE IN THE PARTY, BECAUSE MEMBERS KEEP ASKING WHY THERE'S NO RESULT YET, AND WE HAVE TO TELL THEM THAT IT WILL STILL TAKE SOME TIME UNTIL-- BY WAY OF THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE AND ALL OTHER EFFORTS IN THIS CONTEXT-- WE'LL HAVE REACHED THE POINT WHERE WE CAN EFFECT REDUCTIONS."

2. ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUED OFFSET PAYMENTS, EPPLER REPLIED, " YOU ARE PROBABLY A MAN WHO POSSIBLY KNOWS STILL MORE ABOUT ECONOMIC MATTERS THAN I DO, SO YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT THESE EIGHT BILLIONS ARE NOT PAYMENTS TO BE MADE BY THE GERMAN TAXPAYER OUT OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET, BUT THAT THEY ARE A TRANSFER OF FOREIGN CURRENCY, THAT IS, SOMETHING TO OFFSET THE FACT THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE TO SPEND DOLLARS IN THE FRG. AND I'M QUITE SURE THAT THE PARTY CONVENTION WILL NOT OBJECT TO THIS... THIS ANTI- AMERICANISM THAT'S SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN YOUR QUESTION IS ALSO AN ARTIFICIAL THING, A STRAW-MAN. IT'S AFTER ALL A FACT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE FRG WITH THE TWO WORLD POWERS IS TODAY EMBEDDED IN THE EUROPE OF THE NINE. STRICTLY SPEAKING, THE QUESTION IS NO LONGER WHAT OUR UNILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US IS BUT WHAT THE ATTITUDE OF THIS EUROPE OF THE NINE TOWARD THE US IS, AND IN THIS RESPECT A PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION IS GOING ON. IN DEALING WITH THE AMERICANS WE WILL NO LONGER BE THE MODEL BOYS BUT, LIKE OTHER EUROPEANS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE'LL BE PEOPLE WHO SAY: WE HAVE MANY COMMON INTERESTS:

NOT EXCLUSIVELY COMMON INTERESTS, MIND YOU-- BUT WE HAVE MANY COMMON INTERESTS, WE WANT TO PRESERVE THE ALLIANCE BUT WE ALSO WANT THE RIGHT TO SPEAK OUR MIND OCCASIONALLY. THIS IS THE PROCESS THAT'S GOING ON."

3. WHEN ASKED WHETHER ONE COULD SAY THAT AT THE PARTY CONVENTION IN HANNOVER THE FRG'S FOREIGN POLICY WILL NOT BE CHANGED AS DRASTICALLY ( MATERIALLY) BY MOTIONS AND OTHER STATEMENTS AS IS GENERALLY EXPECTED IN DISCUSSIONS PRECEDING THIS CONVENTION, EPPLER STATED EMPHATICALLY, " I GUARANTEE THAT THE FOUNDATIONS, THE BASIC LINES OF WILLY BRANDT'S FOREIGN POLICY WILL NOT EVEN BE SCRATCHED. THERE MAY BE SOME FRINGE TOPICS, SUCH AS PORTUGAL, THAT WILL PROVOKE DISCUSSION, BUT THERE WILL BE NO SERIOUS QUESTIONING OF THE POSITION OUR COUNTRY HAS FOUND IN EUROPE AND IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE." HILLENBRAND

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**To:** AVZMBASSY PARIS  
BREMEN  
DUSSELDORF  
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